

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~claim 4~~ claim 17, wherein said adapter ring comprises a plurality of complementary parts configured to be arranged together to define said ring.
6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~claim 4~~ claim 17, further comprising a plurality of detents projecting from said adapter ring to define a castellated shape thereby, said detents configured to be substantially aligned with corresponding slots in said ~~shock absorber adjustment~~ nut such that said ~~shock absorber~~ nut is rotatably responsive to said adapter ring.
7. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of said plurality of detents define an aperture therein.
8. (Original) The device of claim 7, further comprising a securing pin disposable in said detent aperture.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim + 13, wherein said device is configured such that an angle subtended by said ratcheting rotation is up to six degrees.

11. (Original) The device of claim 10, wherein said angle subtended by said ratcheting rotation is approximately four degrees.

12. (Currently Amended) A shock absorber adjusting ~~wrench~~ assembly comprising:
a threaded shock absorber adjustment nut comprising:

an inner surface configured to engage a complementary threaded surface on a
shock absorber; and

an outer surface comprising a plurality of teeth; and

a wrench comprising:

a handle with a proximal end and a distal end;

a head coupled to said distal end, said head defining an engaging member that is configured to couple to a said shock absorber adjustment nut to facilitate rotation thereof, said head comprising:

a closed end disposed adjacent said distal end of said handle; and

an open end disposed away from said closed end, said open end configured to allow placement of said wrench over said shock absorber to facilitate coupling of said engaging member to said shock absorber adjustment nut;

a hinge disposed between said handle and said head to facilitate pivotal movement therebetween; and

a ratcheting mechanism cooperative with said engaging member such that upon ratcheting rotation of said wrench about said shock absorber adjustment nut threaded along a substantially longitudinal axis of said shock absorber, at least one of said shock absorber or a spring coupled thereto can be adjusted.

13. (Currently Amended) A shock absorber adjusting assembly comprising:

a wrench comprising:

a handle;

a nut-engaging member coupled to said handle, said nut-engaging member defining a race therein; and

a ratcheting mechanism cooperative with said nut-engaging member, said ratcheting mechanism comprising pawls that make up at least a portion of said race; and

a nut disposable on a shock absorber and configured to cooperate with said nut-engaging member to facilitate adjustment of at least one of said shock absorber or a spring coupled thereto, said nut comprising an inner surface and an outer surface, said outer surface comprising a plurality of teeth disposed thereabout such that said teeth can engage said pawls to make said nut responsive to rotational movement of said wrench, said inner surface comprising a thread with which to engage a complementary thread on said shock absorber.

14. (Original) The shock absorber adjusting assembly of claim 13, wherein said nut-engaging member comprises:

a closed end disposed adjacent said handle; and

an open end disposed away from said closed end, said open end configured to allow placement of said nut-engaging member over said shock absorber to facilitate engagement of said nut-engaging member and said shock absorber adjustment nut.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The shock absorber adjusting assembly of claim ~~15~~ 13, further comprising an adapter ring configured to fit between said nut-engaging member and said nut, said adapter ring comprising a plurality of teeth disposed around the outer periphery thereof, said adapter ring teeth configured to engage said pawls to make said adapter ring responsive to rotation of said head.

18. (Currently Amended) The shock absorber adjusting assembly of claim ~~17~~ 13, further comprising at least one bore formed in said nut, and a securing member disposable in said bore.

19. (Original) The shock absorber adjusting assembly of claim 18, further comprising a block disposable in said bore adjacent said securing member.
20. (Original) The shock absorber adjusting assembly of claim 13, wherein said nut is made from a material having a lower density than steel.
21. (Original) The shock absorber adjusting assembly of claim 20, wherein material is a lightweight metal.
22. (Original) The shock absorber adjusting assembly of claim 21, wherein said lightweight metal is aluminum or an alloy thereof.
23. (Original) The shock absorber adjusting assembly of claim 22, wherein said aluminum or alloys thereof is anodized.
24. (Currently Amended) The shock absorber adjusting assembly of claim ~~17~~ 13, wherein said nut further comprises a protective layer formed on the surface thereof.
25. (Original) The shock absorber adjusting assembly of claim 13, further comprising a hinge disposed between said nut-engaging member and said handle to facilitate pivotal movement therebetween.
26. (Cancelled)
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Cancelled)
29. (Cancelled)
30. (Cancelled)
31. (Cancelled)
32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method of using a shock absorber adjusting device, said method comprising:

arranging a shock absorber system to include a shock absorber adjustment nut that is configured to facilitate adjustment of at least one of a spring or shock absorber making up said shock absorber system, said shock absorber adjustment nut comprising:

an inner surface comprising a thread with which to engage a complementary thread on said shock absorber; and

an outer surface comprising a plurality of teeth disposed thereabout such that said teeth can engage said pawls to make said nut responsive to rotational movement of said wrench, said inner surface;

configuring a shock absorber adjusting device to comprise:

a handle with a proximal end and a distal end;

a head coupled to said distal end and defining an engaging member that is configured to couple to said shock absorber adjustment nut to facilitate rotation thereof a nut-engaging member coupled to said handle, said engaging member defining a race therein; and

a ratcheting mechanism comprising pawls that make up at least a portion of said race, said ratcheting mechanism cooperative with said engaging member such that upon ratcheting rotation of said device about said shock absorber adjustment nut threaded along a substantially longitudinal axis of said shock absorber, at least one of said shock absorber or said spring coupled thereto can be adjusted;

coupling said device to said shock absorber adjustment nut; and

ratcheting said device to effect an adjustment to said shock absorber adjustment nut.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising placing an adapter ring between said shock absorber adjustment nut and said engaging member to facilitate said coupling therebetween.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 35, further comprising placing at least one thrust bearing against at least one of said adapter ring or said shock absorber adjustment nut.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising configuring said device to include a hinge disposed between said head and said handle to facilitate pivotal movement therebetween.

39. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising configuring said head of said device to include:

a closed end disposed adjacent said distal end of said handle; and

an open end disposed away from said closed end, said open end configured to allow placement of said device over said shock absorber system to facilitate engagement of said device and said shock absorber adjustment nut.